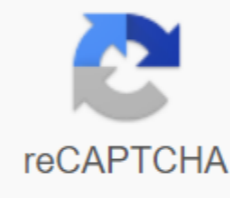




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If your desktop or laptop parts have died or seen better days, you have a friend. All of your Lifehacker editors, and many useful network residents, have updated or repaired faulty systems, and we've put together some of their most useful tutorials. Photo Garrette.10. De-bulk your MacBook power cordFor all their design emphasis on elegance and minimalism, MacBooks come with pretty bulky power cords that don't easily coil and tuck. Gizmodo editor Brian Lam travels quite a bit with his MacBook Pro and doesn't dig much of the cord leading to two brick prongs, so he details the not-so-tough technique replacing it with a lighter, more flexible PlayStation cord that shares the same adapter at the end. (Original post) 9. Installing your own RAMIt almost always costs less to buy your own RAM from a reliable source and install it yourself than to let Lenovos, Dells, HPs, and apples do it for you, either when you first purchase the system or as an upgrade. On most laptop systems included, this is an entry-level hardware project to swap or add to the memory chip. Adam detailed how to install a new RAM stick in your desktop computer and took us on a video tour of MacBook RAM upgrades. From what this editor has seen, this process is almost identical to non-Apple laptops: find where ram is stored, unscrew the plate, pop memory sticks in and at an angle, and then re-place to get back on track. Not sure what chips you need to buy? Try the How-To Geek guide to determine what memory your computer has set.8 Silent noisy hard drive If your hard drive vibrates against the inside of your computer's body, it can make for one noisy... MoreYs won't notice the sound of your hard drives when you first download the new system, but over time, the buzz, vortex, and clicking on all these drives and moving parts can become mind low-level stimuli. A lot of noise is usually caused by the hard drive vibrating against the metal desktop case, which can be eliminated with small rubber inserts, or, for the near total elimination of vibration, the suspension of the disc from the elastic straps. If you're rocking a laptop or looking for other ways to be happy with a system, try searching and digging into Silent PC Review, End PC Noise, or check out PC Magazine's multi-step guide to quiet PC.7. Get good at solder most DIY gadget projects, and lots of computers or electronics repairs, require the use of hot iron solder, some solder and sometimes flow. If all that sounds pretty foreign and new to you, Instructables' guide to the main parts of the merger and washing scheme will cost every minute you spend absorbing it. It's packed with advice and answered the questions of beginners. Are you planning to move on to a more advanced, detailed project like MintyBoost? Aaron's home page has a guide on how to solder on the chain chain (Original post) 6. Turn the computer into HackintoshGetting Apple OS X works on hardware you haven't bought from Apple, doesn't require magical power, 128-character secret code, or much more than just patience to follow a few steps to get around, in fact. Adam showed us how to take some tackles nabbed from NewEgg and assemble it in Hackintosh, with more ease of use than his first round. If you have a desktop system looking for a few new parts, or you'd like to try the Mac world without paying a Mac award, this makes for an award-winning weekend project. Update: This post is no longer supported. For the most famous Hackintosh build, see Read More Often5. Replace powerpower supplies are not something you want cheaply, or hang on if they're on their way out. They are often the easiest component of a desktop system, they are fickle and they can knock down other components if they fritz out. Lifehacker graduate Rick Broyda ran down the basics of disabling and removing your power and re-sitting new in his place. These are the answers to the half equation, but how do you know that PSU replaced it? Online parts store NewEgg offers a handy energy calculator that calculates energy needs from already installed components. Just like in the house, sometimes you can get away with less than you want, but you don't want to know what happens when you're wrong.4 Installing a new hard drive Any hard drive seems like it's going to be a way too big for your use when you first get it. A few months of how much-zero downloads later and you're looking for a great dig for your data. Adam broke the process of installing a desktop, but to increase the number of people jamming all their stuff on laptops, we offer a guide to MacBook updates from the Houston Chronicle TechBlog and Popular Mechanics shared laptop hard drive manuals. All methods, of course, also apply if your drive goes dead and you have to yank it for replacement.3. Replace busted laptop LCDLCD screens are often the second most expensive component of the laptop, so when they go bad, most people just swing for a complete replacement. If you can find an LCD replacement for your model though, there's a good chance that you can save some pretty serious cash, especially if your laptop screen went dark early in your life. This is my defective kit site running down the step-by-step process of replacing a faulty display, which is basically a matter of being careful and not losing very tiny screws. If that sounds a bit beyond your credentials or patience, you can turn that working but not visible laptop into a headless system that lurks easily. (Original post) If you have an old laptop with a busted monitor and nothing left on your warranty, no trash... Read more2. Upgrade to motherboard and CPUReplacing other parts your computer is akin to attaching hands and feet to the Frankenstein system. When you add a brand new processor and motherboard in your case, that's when you really become a crazy scientist. In fact, it's not all that difficult, as Adam demonstrates, and on a system where everything works well, but the brain just needs to move a little faster, it's a relatively cheap and effective upgrade, and one that inspires a lot of confidence in your computer hardware skills.1. Build a whole computer with scratchAs Gina notes in your comprehensive isumen from building your own computer, from selecting parts (finally) to getting to the screen entrance, you don't build your own computer because you want to save a lot of money (although you can, depending on the assembly). You build it yourself because you want complete control over the quality and features of each piece of it and you learn a hell of a lot about how they work together. Do yourself a favor, though, and learn from Gina a few WTF moments before giving it a go of her own. Where do you turn when you are looking to fix or replace some hardware? Which hardware projects are worth the time and effort, and which you left to professionals? Meet your tales of repair in the comments, and feel free to offer other worthwhile hardware links. Updated: 06/30/2020 by Computer Hope As a computer virus is the only code it cannot physically damage computer equipment. However, it can create scenarios where computer-controlled hardware is damaged. For example, a virus can instruct a computer to turn off cooling fans, causing the computer to overheat and damage its hardware. The vast majority of computer viruses are only for targeted computer data. In addition, modern equipment is much more difficult to damage equipment without repair. If you're having problems with a computer hardware device, such as a printer, graphics card, sound card, or other hardware device, it's probably not because of a virus. Corrupt drivers Although the virus cannot attack hardware, software drivers that allow hardware devices to communicate with the computer can be attacked or damaged. If this happens, it may interfere with the device, but it will not physically damage the hardware. Keep in mind, however, that it is much more likely that drivers themselves have problems, or other software damaged drivers rather than a virus. To fix this type of problem, you need to reinstall the hardware drivers. How to install and update your computer driver. A list of computer drivers. Corrupt BIOS One of the most visible viruses that attacked the hardware was Chernobyl. The Chernobyl virus was first detected in 1999 and damaged data on the hard drive and sometimes the motherboard of BIOS. When a BIOS computer becomes damaged, it causes the computer not to load. However, this virus does not physically damage BIOS; it's just bios code, and if the BIOS chip has been replaced, the computer will load again. Modern computers also use EEPROM, allowing BIOS and firmware to be re-flared without the need to replace the chip. Thus, if the virus infects modern BIOS, it may be re-flared with updated BIOS. Help with bios update. What about Stuxnet? Complex viruses, such as Stuxnet, are designed to damage equipment that is controlled by computers. For example, Stuxnet was designed to accommodate centrifuges in Iranian enrichment plants. No computer equipment was damaged; however, the virus damaged the centrifuges because it disabled all system alerts that would have alerted something wrong. This type of virus was able to damage equipment because security measures were disabled. However, it was one of the most complex viruses ever written and was targeted at a specific device. If your computer had contracted Stuxnet, it would have done nothing for your computer. What about PDoS? PDoS (permanent denial of service) attack is not a virus, but a type of attack where a person uses a firmware network equipment, flashing it with malicious code. These attacks can damage hardware if the firmware is programmed to do something malicious (such as disabling temperature monitors) or make the devices not work because the firmware is damaged. Why a virus writer may not want to attack the hardware of someone who creates a virus is more likely to create a virus for money, spy, or take control of a computer. Trying to write a virus that damages hardware doesn't help achieve any of these goals, and doesn't help spread the virus to other computers. Note that it is likely that someone may write malware designed for the target person or company to damage the hardware. However, for this type of attack, a person will not create a virus that infects other computers. In addition, modern equipment is more difficult to damage equipment beyond repair. Today, systems use firmware that can be re-flared or reset without replacing any chip or other equipment. In addition, modern systems have security measures that help protect equipment from damage. For example, if the system gets too hot, it may shut down to prevent damage. Can the virus cause a computer to explode or catch fire? No. There are many stories floating around that virus can cause the computer to explode or catch fire; they are invalid. Malware can damage or explode computer-controlled equipment (for example, Stuxnet destroys centrifuges). However, this will only be possible if Control will be able to force the hardware to do something dangerous and will need to disable any warning or prevention systems. The software can damage computer hardware It is worth noting that the software is designed to customize system settings, like system watch settings, fans, or or or thermal sinks, can cause system problems with the computer. In addition, in some rare situations, adjusting these settings incorrectly can even damage the hardware. However, these program settings are not computer viruses, and as mentioned earlier, modern systems are also designed to protect equipment if it reaches a critical point. More information basic computer hardware books pdf

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